

THE NEW ALUMNI PRESIDENT TALKS ABOUT "VOLUNTEERISM"

An Interview with

Joan P. Fisher, '61 *Sep 1989*

Alumni Today: As president of the BYU Alumni Association, what is the most challenging part of your job?

JPF: We have 255,000 living BYU alumni. The biggest challenge is to reach these alumni, to sponsor programs that involve them, and to enrich their lives. Most important, we want them to continue their lives maintaining the "spirit of the Y" they had when they were students.

AT: You have thirty-five alumni on the board of directors, each represents his or her area or constituency. What special programs have they proposed and what has been adopted?

JPF: We have representatives on our board from all areas of the United States and into Canada. But our board is different from most. We are actually an advisory council to the board of trustees and to the university administration. We oversee ongoing alumni programs. This includes Aspen Grove, publications, tours, business, alumni promotional items, and other activities.

AT: You are the first alumni president to make special visits some of our regional councils. What is your impression of these groups, and how do they help alumni relations?

JPF: As our alumni population has grown we have organized regions around the U.S. This is where alumni actually get involved in their own communities and their own areas. I was privileged to visit some councils in Southern California. They actually plan the alumni activities, and we are seeing a lot of alumni involvement and activity.

AT: BYU has 255,000 living alumni on its records. Don't we need to get more alumni volunteers involved?

JPF: Absolutely. Our alumni programs really work because of former BYU students who care about the university and get things going in their areas. This is especially important with regional councils. Over half of our alumni live where we have organized regional councils. Every council can use active, enthusiastic alumni in their activities.

AT: But your board members and regional council volunteers are all busy people with

PRESIDENTIAL PROFILE



Joan Peterson Fisher '61

Born Niagara Falls . . . daughter of "Chuck" and Harriet Peterson. Graduated BY High School . . . BYU in elementary education. Cami Lo's social unit . . . Snow Queen . . . ROTC Sponsor Corps . . . helped found Sportswomen . . . frosh class senator.

Married M. Byron Fisher, '61, SLC attorney . . . five children . . . three grandsons. Cougar Club national board of directors . . . Mrs. Utah '68 . . . Mrs. America '69-70 . . . board of directors National Charity League. Professional model . . . contributed chapter to "Joys of Being a Woman" . . . skis, runs, plays tennis and harp.

Elected to alumni board '85, then executive committee . . . president-elect last year . . . succeeded Richard Galbraith as president in April.

jobs and families, and almost all have important callings in the church. How do they find time to work for BYU, too?

JPF: How do any of us find time to do the things we want to do? Usually we do it because we want to, because we love the university, because we have feelings of affection and admiration and caring for BYU. Many alumni have a great desire to give back to the university some of what they received when they were students. Also I think we like to maintain the associations and friends we had while we were in school.

AT: You have also attended national alumni conferences. From that experience, how do you think our alumni association compares with others?

JPF: Well, we are a very unique association. We have ties beyond college because of our religion and our basic beliefs. The BYU Alumni Association has a great national reputation. We are one of the largest associations and enjoy great respect. In fact, other associations look to us as a leader in our field.

AT: What direction do you think the alumni board should take in promoting BYU's mission?

JPF: As an alumni association our first priority is total support of the administration and the board of trustees. I'm happy that is a two-way street. We get great support from the administration and from the board of trustees.

We also get a lot of support from non-alumni church members. Those are people who never attended BYU, but because of their church affiliation claim BYU as their university.

AT: How do you feel about the role of alumni volunteers and the professional alumni relations staff at BYU? Do lines ever get blurred as to their assignments and responsibilities?

JPF: We have a wonderful staff, and our alumni association is successful and runs smoothly because of these good people. The board of directors sets policies and gives direction, but we only meet twice a year. The staff works daily to carry out decisions and the policies of the board.

We have nine full-time administrative people, seven full-time staff members, and as many as fifty part-time students on the alumni staff. They are wonderful to work with, and we have a great feeling of cooperation with them.

AT: Although many think that the BYU Alumni Association is responsible for fund raising, it isn't. How can alumni help?

JPF: We define support in its broadest terms. Support comes in many ways—in volunteer work, in money, and in time. Our role is to stimulate this support.

A national statistic concerning alumni volunteers says that writing a check is easier than donating time to your alma mater. Soliciting money from alumni is easier than recruiting volunteers. From ten to twenty percent of the alumni of

education while also working as graduate assistant and instructor in the department.

In 1975 she joined the Utah State Office of Education as an educational specialist in Consumer and Homemaking Education. Two years later she was named a state vocational equity specialist to administer single parent or displaced homemaker and sex equity programs in vocational education.

Her Project VOTE (Vocational Opportunity Through Equity) program was designed to help students make career decisions and became so well-known and popular in Utah that it attracted international recognition. More recently her efforts to serve single parents and displaced homemakers saw more than 1,000 women being taught and trained throughout the state during an eight-month period.



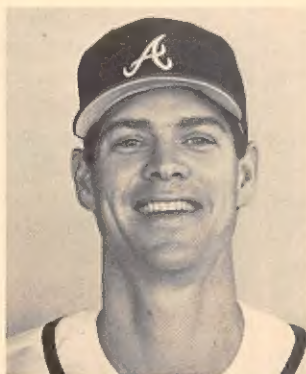
Artis Petty Grady, like many young women, approached her career as a dietician with typically professional enthusiasm. But soon she found that her skills were so badly needed in so many areas that she immersed herself in service and won a unique place in the hearts of those she helped.

While contributing to her husband's postgraduate studies and caring for a growing family of her own, Artis Grady worked as a consulting dietician for several rest homes and retirement centers in Manhattan, Kansas. There she endeared herself to the residents with her personal

gifts of caring and nurturing that transcended institutional needs. Later, while her husband was earning a Ph.D. at the University of Tennessee, she worked in the university hospital, supervising 120 employees, and receiving commendation for her competence and popularity.

When her husband's career brought the family to Cedar City, Utah, where he teaches communications and broadcasting at Southern Utah State College, she devoted herself further to community service as a special instructor in nutrition at SUSC, as a part-time professional with the WIC program, and as a member of the SUSC alumni council. She plays cello for the Cedar City Community Orchestra and has taught each of her children to play the piano.

Dale Murphy has been called that special breed of athlete who makes competition and decency wholly compatible. He has never allowed his desire to win or his pride in his achievements to interfere with respect for opponents, high regard for the game of baseball and its fans, and love for family and church.



His honor roll includes National League Most Valuable Player in 1982 and 1983; National League Player of the Year by *Sporting News*, 1982 and 1983; All-Star teams in 1982, 1983, 1984, and 1985; Gold Glove Awards 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, and 1986; Silver Stick Awards 1982, 1983, 1984, and 1985; and has been elected to

the National League All-Star game by fan vote in 1982 through 1986. Twice, in 1980 and 1987, he was selected to the All-Star team. Six times in his career he has been chosen the National League Player of the Month, tying Pete Rose and George Foster for high honors.

Professional statistics and honors aside, Dale Murphy's dedication to family and church mark him as a special person. He was named by *Sports Illustrated* in 1987 as one of eight top athletes in the world "who care the most" and has done extensive volunteer work for national and local charities.



Delbert V. Groberg's contributions to family service begin with his eleven children. All are BYU graduates with seven having gone on to receive master's degrees or equivalents and four having been awarded doctorates. Seven of his sons and one daughter have served full-time missions for the church, with three of the sons returning later to the field as mission presidents. Elder John H. Groberg, '58, his oldest son, is a General Authority.

The third generation has already seen seven grandchildren having completed missions with two others still serving.

Orphaned at age three, Delbert Groberg was raised by "loving relatives." Recognizing the need to care for others as he had been, he extended himself as father and priesthood leader far outside his immediate family. He became counselor to eight

of his widowed sister's children and assumed considerable family responsibilities on their behalf. To three sisters-in-law and their children left without husbands and fathers, he extended compassion and caring equal to their needs despite the demands of time and energy by his own family.



Wallace O. Tanner is credited by many for helping to establish initial relationships with the Egyptian government which permitted BYU researchers to unearth and study the nation's antiquities. Further, according to Dr. S. Kent Brown, director of the Egyptian Microfilming Project, his contributions, while not widely known, offer important reasons why the magnificent Ramses exhibition came to Provo.

As president of the Mormon Archeology and Research Foundation, Wallace Tanner donated funds for BYU's Egyptian excavation in the Fayyum Valley, led by Dr. Wilfred Griggs, to begin the vital work of building confidence with Egyptian authorities. Further, he is also one of the principle supporters for a major microfilming effort in the Middle East which is housed at BYU. His foundation has also teamed with the National Endowment for the Humanities to support microfilming of ancient manuscripts in Egypt and Israel, including biblical, liturgical, and historical records from the various Christian groups such as Copts, Jacobites, Armenians, and Ethiopians.

public universities contribute financially to their school but only one to two percent volunteer time.

AT: *OK, you've talked about what alumni have done and what they're doing for BYU now. What would you like to see them do in the next five, ten, or twenty years?*

JPF: Our alumni association grows by 9,000 new alumni every year. That's 90,000 every ten years. It's a terrific challenge to offer new programs and services for this growing organization and also to find ways to fund such growth.

AT: *In 1993 the BYU alumni association will celebrate its centennial. How are plans progressing?*

JPF: Well, at the first brainstorming session, the staff came up with over three pages of ideas. Some of them are great, and some were simply thunder and lightning, but we'll sort through them and many will be used. We're excited in the very near future that we'll be able to celebrate one hundred years of alumni work.

AT: *Any parting words for Jeff and Pat Holland and greetings to Rex Lee and his new administration?*

JPF: First, as president of the alumni association, I express appreciation from all BYU alumni to former President Jeff Holland and his lovely wife, Pat, for the leadership, support, and example they have been through almost a decade of service.

In the next breath, we welcome President Rex Lee and the new administration. We're excited about serving with them. We look forward to the leadership and abilities they bring to their various roles.

BYU VOLUNTEER FACTS

So far this academic year, 574 BYU alumni and friends have volunteered nearly 18,000 hours of service to the university.

Of this volunteer force, 380 serve on alumni regional councils, thirty-five on the board of directors, forty on Emeritus boards, thirty on reunion committees, twenty-four on the Student Alumni Association, sixteen as records management volunteers, and thirty represented BYU at inaugurals and convocations at other colleges.

With 255,000 BYU alumni living in all fifty states and in seventy foreign countries, the need for BYU volunteers grows every year.

REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWS, NOTES

September 1989

Off-Campus Activities Down Slightly; All Regions Need Volunteers to Help

■ With the new BYU administration coming on board, some alumni programs had to be temporarily "put on hold." So numbers aren't as high for activities and turnout as they were last year.

■ But it's still been a good year...and annual programs in Sacramento, Portland, and Atlanta show that progress continues. If it works, keep doing it, as they say.

■ Sacramento's fourth annual marrieds' retreat at Asilomar gets bigger and fills to capacity every year...with a waiting list. This time forty couples attended. Richard and Julia Hatch of San Jose were guest speakers...reports say it was another big success.

■ Sacramento preceded their retreat with a youth fireside program featuring Tom Holmoe, '83, of the San Francisco 49ers...700 turned out for a great evening.

■ Not to be outdone, Portland alums held their annual picnic/overnighter for families at Silver Falls State Park...with a new wrinkle this year—a family musical by the Association of LDS Artists in the Portland area. Beautiful scenery...great fun...with biking, hiking Saturday. The Portland region works hand in glove with the BYU Management Society to promote monthly luncheons and discussions...another big plus for them and for BYU.



Atlanta Award—Neil A. Hoyt, holding plaque, received the alumni community service award at Atlanta's Mormon Night with the Braves fete. Also shown, Joe Ellsworth, (left), Atlanta alumni regional council chairman; Glen Tuckett, BYU athletic director; and Robert Egan, Atlanta LDS public communications director.

■ Raves are still rolling in for the Atlanta BYU/Mormon Night with the Braves annual event...actually it's a whole "Freedom Week" with seminars, firesides, General Authorities, Mormon athletes (Jason Buck, '88, and Dylann Duncan, '89), tailgate party, pregame entertainment...topped off with Braves baseball and Dale Murphy, '82. Elder Paul Dunn, and BYU athletic director Glen Tuckett, '62, were there, too.

■ The Riverside/San Bernardino Regional Council hosts BYU every couple of years when the Cougs join the Riverside Baseball Invitational. This year saw a tailgate party before the opening BYU game...then a midweek fireside with Coach Pullins and players. BYU did great, but unfortunately lost the championship game. Several hundred fans showed up for the activities.

■ Las Vegas alumni council members hosted a spring family picnic with fun and games. Chris Pella of the BYU football staff was there...met with Cougar Club members for breakfast...then joined the picnic. A nice way to get things going again in Vegas.

■ Chicago saw Glen Tuckett (a very busy guy) at a combined alumni/Management Society fireside in April.

■ The Ventura County council borrowed a page from Pocatello's book and entered cars in an annual parade. A fun experience for all...and a great way to show blue-and-white spirit to the townspeople. Ventura alums and Cougar Clubbers also hosted LaVell Edwards, '78, for a dinner in July...gave a football update...gonna be a fine year.

■ Boise invited a well-known local alum, Larry Eastland, '67, to speak on "America's Spiritual Role in the World." He's a prominent researcher and consultant. It was a great use of local talent for an alumni program.

■ Pocatello council members joined the annual July 24th parade with their vintage cars...flying the BYU flag proudly all the way...handed out Cougar football schedule cards!

Seattle area alums hosted a "Student Sendoff" for area frosh as well as continuing BYU students. Fun, games, dinner, dancing, party, t-shirts...the whole works. Those kids will come to BYU brimming with blue-and-white spirit. Ditto Orange County...sponsored a picnic, games, hotdog-and-drink going away for their departing students.

Special note: All regional councils can use good, enthusiastic volunteers to help with alumni programs. (Read what the alum president has to say about BYU volunteers.) Lists and phone numbers of chairmen are in this issue of *Alumni Today*. Call now and volunteer!

OUR BYU SEIKO QUARTZ TIMEPIECE CRAFTED FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Our specially designed BYU Seiko Quartz timepiece features a richly detailed, three-dimensional re-creation of the new Brigham Young University seal, finished in 14

kt. gold. The electronic quartz movement is guaranteed accurate to within fifteen seconds per month.

Men's and ladies' leather strap wrist watches are \$200 each. The

men's and ladies' two-tone bracelet wrist watches and the pocket watch with matching chain are \$230 each. There is a \$5.75 shipping and handling charge for each watch ordered. On shipments to Pennsylvania, purchasers should add 6% state sales tax.

To order by American Express, MasterCard, or VISA, please call toll-free 1-800-523-0124 (Pennsylvania residents only call 1-800-367-5248). All callers should ask for operator 607JM. Calls are accepted seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern time. To order by mail, write to: BYU Alumni Association, c/o P.O. Box 511, Wayne, PA 19087 and include check or money order, made payable to "Brigham Young University Watch." Credit card orders can also be sent by mail—please include full account number and expiration date. Allow four to six weeks for delivery.



Illustration reduced. Actual diameters of watches are as follows: ladies' wrist 15/16"; men's wrist 1 3/8"; pocket watch (not illustrated) 1 1/2".

ALUMNI INVITED TO SEND IN AWARD/BOARD NOMINATIONS

A primary responsibility of the BYU Alumni Association is to honor individuals who deserve recognition. We invite nominations for awards from everyone—alumni and friends—and there is no limit to the number of nominations that a person can make. The BYU Alumni Association Board of Directors encourages you to submit the names of men and women whom you feel deserve special recognition and who meet the following criteria:

Alumni Board of Directors: Open to any alumnus/ae. Meets on campus twice each year. Directors pay own tax-deductible travel expenses. Hard work, good service opportunity.

Alumni Distinguished Service Award: Given to alumni who have devoted a lifetime of outstanding service to their profession, community, church, or nation.

Honorary Alumni Award: Given to individuals who have not attended BYU but who have rendered outstanding and significant service to the university.

Young Alumni Achievement Award: Awarded to alumni thirty-six years of age or younger who have demonstrated outstanding personal achievement or service to BYU, community, career, or church.

Alumni Service to Family Award: (May be given to either an individual or a family.) Awarded to BYU alumni for service rendered in a home environment, including extended family, which involves meaningful but often less visible service.

Nominees for awards must have performed such service or made

such contributions that public recognition would reflect credit on BYU. Current BYU employees, members of governing boards, and General Authorities are not eligible for these awards.

Nominees should exemplify high moral character and religious virtue. (They are not required to be LDS.)

Nominations must be received by the BYU Alumni Association by 1 March of the presentation year. Nominations are held in active files and considered for three years or until chosen.

BYU Alumni Association Nomination Form Request

Please send the following nomination form(s):

- ☐ Board of Directors ☐ Honorary Alumni Award
☐ Alumni Distinguished Service Award
☐ Young Alumni Achievement Award
☐ Alumni Service to Family Award

Name _____ Class Year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Is this a new address? Yes ☐ No ☐

Return nomination request form to: BYU Alumni House, Provo, UT 84602, or call (801) 378-HOME (4663).